

phalanges of four digits of manus 2, 2, 3, 2, of five digits of pes 2, 2, 3, 4, 2; no fold in front of the cloacal aperture; tail rather thick, yet compressed at base; no parotids; twelve costal folds on each side between axilla and groin; palatine teeth forming a transverse, slightly undulating, but subcontinuous series; no sphenoidal teeth; muzzle not projecting beyond the end of the mandible; tongue entirely fixed, behind as well as in front, and only somewhat free at each side; no postorbital arch or process (?); two premaxillæ (?); carpus and tarsus ossified (?).

Hab. Laos Mountains?

Thus, if the generic distinctness of this form is to be considered established, we shall have that degree of relationship to American forms which, under the circumstances above mentioned, is not anomalous, while we shall not have that close affinity to a peculiarly American form which was at first suspected to exist, and which would be so very anomalous if found in a species belonging to the *true* Indian region, whence *P. persimilis* was at one time supposed to have come.

4. On some New or imperfectly known Fishes of India.

By Surgeon FRANCIS DAY, F.Z.S., F.L.S., Principal Medical Storekeeper, Madras Army.

During the last month I have obtained the following species of fish, amongst many others, from the sea and fresh waters in the neighbourhood of Madras.

SERRANUS RADIATUS, sp. nov.

B. vii. D. 11/15. P. 19. V. 1/5. A. 3/8. C. 15. L. l. above 120.

Length of specimen 4 inches.

Length of head $\frac{1}{3}$, of pectoral $\frac{1}{5}$, of base of dorsal spines $\frac{2}{7}$, of base of dorsal rays $\frac{1}{7}$, of base of anal $\frac{1}{7}$, of caudal $\frac{1}{6}$ of the total length. Height of head $\frac{2}{9}$, of body $\frac{2}{7}$, of dorsal spines $\frac{1}{8}$, of dorsal rays $\frac{1}{7}$, of ventral $\frac{2}{11}$, of anal $\frac{1}{7}$ of the total length.

Eye transversely oval, its upper margin near the profile; diameter $\frac{2}{7}$ of length of head, 1 diameter from end of snout, $\frac{1}{2}$ a diameter apart.

General appearance rather elongated, and the dorsal profile slightly more convex than the abdominal.

Lower jaw the longest; the posterior extremity of the upper jaw reaches to beneath the posterior margin of the orbit. Præopercle slightly oblique posteriorly, which is serrated, three strong denticulations at its angle, its horizontal margin entire. Sub- and interopercles entire. Opercle with three flat spines, the central one of which is the longest.

Teeth in strong recurved villiform rows in both jaws, and a canine on either side of the centre of the upper. Teeth on vomer and palate in villiform bands, but much smaller than those in the jaws.

Fins. Dorsal spines moderately strong, and nearly as high as the rays, the interspinous membrane but slightly emarginate. Anal—first spine half as long as the second, which is of equal length but weaker than the third. Caudal wedge-shaped, its central rays being slightly the longest.

Scales small.

The lateral line is parallel with the back in the upper third of the body.

Colours. For the most part greenish olive, becoming dull yellow on the abdomen. An irregularly shaped, broad, whitish blue band passes from the posterior superior margin of the orbit across the occiput to meet a similar one from the opposite side. Two more pass from the lower and posterior margins of the orbit to the base of the pectoral fin. Another proceeds from the upper margin of the præopercle, at first backwards; and opposite the posterior third of the pectoral it curves upwards to the middle of the hard dorsal, on to which it is continued. A small patch of colour similar to these bands is present in front of the base of the dorsal. Another band proceeds from the posterior extremity of the pectoral to the anterior portion of the soft dorsal. Two more similar vertical bands cross the base of the tail, and several shorter marks exist over the body. Hard dorsal nearly black; soft dorsal and other fins yellow. Eye golden.

SERRANUS GRAMMICUS, sp. nov.

B. vii. D. 11/12. P. 19. V. 1/5. A. 3/8. C. 17. L. l. 90.

Length of specimen 15 inches.

Length of head $\frac{2}{7}$, of pectoral $\frac{1}{7}$, of base of dorsal spines nearly $\frac{1}{4}$, of base of dorsal rays $\frac{1}{5}$, of base of anal $\frac{1}{6}$, of caudal $\frac{1}{7}$ of the total length. Height of head $\frac{1}{5}$, of body $\frac{2}{7}$, of dorsal spines $\frac{1}{11}$, of dorsal rays a little more than $\frac{1}{9}$, of anal spines $\frac{2}{15}$, of anal rays $\frac{1}{6}$ of the total length.

Eye. Upper margin close to the profile; diameter $\frac{1}{5}$ of length of head, 1 diameter apart, $1\frac{1}{3}$ diameter from end of snout.

Body rather elongated; dorsal and anal profiles equally convex.

Cleft of mouth rather deep; posterior extremity of upper jaw extending to beneath the posterior margin of the orbit. Vertical limb of præopercle slightly produced at its angle, finely serrated in its upper two-thirds, becoming coarser lower down, and with five moderately large denticulations at its angle; horizontal limb entire, as are also the sub- and interopercles. Operculum with three spines, the central one of which is much the strongest.

Teeth villiform in both jaws, becoming most developed in the centre, and a small canine on either side of the upper jaw. Villiform teeth on vomer and palate in size about equal to the smallest on the jaws.

Fins. Dorsal spines moderately strong, the fourth being the longest, the last being two-thirds the height of the first ray; the soft portion of the fin slightly rounded posteriorly. Pectoral rounded.

Ventral rather pointed. Anal—first spine short, second strongest, the last one-fourth the longest; soft portion rounded. Caudal cut nearly square.

Scales small, in rows passing obliquely upwards and backwards above the lateral line, and horizontally below it.

Lateral line in upper fifth of body.

Colours. Greyish, with a golden gloss about the head. A narrow black line passes from the upper margin of the orbit to the last dorsal spine. A second line passes downwards from the upper third of the orbit to the superior spine of the operculum, whence it proceeds to the base of the sixth dorsal ray. A third and similar band commences at the lower margin of the orbit, and, passing beneath the central spine of the operculum, is continued to the upper third of the caudal fin, where it takes the form of rounded blotches. Dorsal fin with a row of black spots along its centre, and a black external edging. Caudal with numerous black spots, and a black margin. Anal black-tipped. Eye golden.

This description is that of a male specimen.

MESOPRION RUSSELLI, Bleeker.

Antika doondiawah, Russell, pl. 98.

B. vii. D. 10/14. P. 16. V. 1/5. A. 3/8. C. 17. L. 1. 54. L. tr. 9/20.

The length of specimens varies up to 13 inches.

Length of head $\frac{2}{3}$, of pectoral $\frac{1}{4}$, of base of dorsal spines more than $\frac{1}{4}$, of base of dorsal rays $\frac{1}{6}$, of base of anal $\frac{1}{8}$, of caudal $\frac{1}{5}$ of the total length. Height of head rather more than $\frac{1}{4}$, of body $\frac{1}{3}$, of dorsal spines $\frac{1}{8}$, of dorsal rays $\frac{1}{10}$, of ventral $\frac{1}{6}$, of anal spines $\frac{1}{11}$, of anal rays $\frac{1}{8}$ of the total length.

Eyes rather longer than high; diameter $\frac{1}{4}$ of length of head, $1\frac{1}{4}$ diameter from end of snout, $\frac{2}{3}$ of a diameter apart.

Body ovoid, compressed. Dorsal profile rather more convex than the abdominal.

Lower jaw slightly the longest; the posterior extremity of the maxilla extends to beneath the anterior third of the orbit. Præopercle with a very shallow emargination in the lower third of its vertical limb, which has also a few small serrations upon it; horizontal limb crenulated. Scapular serrated.

Teeth. An external row of widely separated conical teeth in either jaw, those in the lower the largest, and increasing in size posteriorly. A pair of large canines in upper jaw, with a smaller one contiguous. A row of very fine villiform teeth in both jaws posterior to the conical row. Villiform teeth in vomer and palate.

Fins. Dorsal spines rather weak, the third much the longest; interspinous membrane rather deeply emarginate; last spine not so long as the first ray. Pectoral pointed. Ventral pointed, spine weak. First anal spine short and weak, two last of equal length, but the middle spine much the strongest. Caudal emarginate, its base broad.

Scales in oblique rows, passing backwards and upwards above the lateral line, and in horizontal rows below it. Some exist over dorsal and anal rays.

Lateral line follows the curve of the back in the upper fourth of its course; it is in single tubes.

Colours. Rosy, with four oblique brilliant golden lines passing from the lateral line upwards and backwards, impinging on two rows of scales, leaving two intermediate rows without such lines. Four similar golden lines are also present below the lateral line: the first proceeding from the posterior margin of the orbit to the lateral finger-mark; the second from the middle of the operculum to opposite the end of the soft dorsal, where it is lost on the lateral line; the third from beneath the orbit to the base of the caudal fin; the fourth from the lower margin of the base of the pectoral to the base of the anal. A large, deep black finger-mark exists on the lateral line opposite to the commencement of the soft dorsal. Pectoral, ventral, and anal yellowish. Dorsal and caudal pinkish. Eyes silvery, with a dark mark below the pupil.

Following the opinion of Cuvier and others, and not having seen a specimen of Russell's fish, I had previously considered this to be the *Genyoroge notata*, C. & V. Since my arrival in Madras I have had ample opportunities of investigating the species, which I find to be a *Mesoprion*, and apparently the *M. russelli* of Dr. Bleeker.

UPENEOIDES BIVITTATUS, Cuv. & Val.

This fish is very similar to the *U. vittatus*, C. & V., with which, indeed, Dr. Günther has placed it. But there are certain evident differences, which I propose adverting to.

Its barbules extend to beyond the posterior margin of the operculum; its caudal is more deeply lobed; its lateral line is more raised; and it possesses a rather thick and large air-bladder, which the *U. vittatus* is without.

The coloration likewise differs. The *Upeneoides bivittatus* is darker along the back; its golden stripes are not so well marked; and the caudal has two horizontal brown lines on either side of its centre, and three oblique bands running across the upper lobe and two across the lower lobe.

In the *Upeneoides vittatus* the caudal has six yellowish-brown bars with dark edges across the upper lobe, and a black extremity, whilst on the lower lobe there are also three oblique bars, and the extremity is white. The first dorsal is also black-edged.

URANOSCOPUS MARMORATUS, C. & V.

B. vi. D. $4\frac{1}{12}$. P. 18. V. $1\frac{1}{5}$. A. 13. C. 11.

Length of specimen $5\frac{5}{10}$ inches.

Length of head nearly $\frac{2}{3}$, of pectoral $\frac{1}{4}$, of base of first dorsal $\frac{1}{11}$, of base of second dorsal $\frac{1}{4}$, of base of anal $\frac{1}{4}$, of caudal $\frac{2}{11}$ of the total length. Height of head $\frac{1}{11}$, of first dorsal $\frac{1}{9}$, of second dorsal $\frac{1}{7}$, of anal $\frac{1}{11}$ of the total length.

Eyes directed upwards and slightly outwards, $\frac{2}{3}$ of a diameter from end of snout, and rather more than 1 diameter apart.

Body, in circumference largest anteriorly, gradually decreasing towards the tail. Head depressed. Body compressed.

Mouth oblique, closed anteriorly by the under jaw, so that it is directed upwards; the posterior margin of the upper jaw extends to beneath the centre of the orbit. There are five præopercular spines at equal distances apart, the anterior of which is directed forwards. The upper surface of the head nodulated, a moderately large suprascapular, and very large humeral spines. Præorbital roughened, large, and slightly constricted where its anterior joins its middle third.

Teeth villiform in jaws, vomer, and palate.

Fins. Ventrals jugular. Pectoral large and rounded. Caudal rounded.

Scales minute, and having raised edges.

Lateral line proceeds backwards from suprascapular spine, and, passing along parallel with the back, arrives at the upper third of the base of the caudal fin, when it bends down to its centre, but is not continued between its rays.

Colours. Chestnut-brown, becoming bluish white on the abdomen. The whole of the upper half of the head, front of lower jaw, and body covered with bluish-white spots. Fins darkish grey, edged with white. Ventral and anal lighter; the upper three-fourths of the first dorsal deep black. Eyes golden.

SCORPENA ROSEA, sp. nov.

B. vii. D. $11\frac{1}{10}$. P. 17. V. $1\frac{1}{5}$. A. $3\frac{1}{5}$. C. 15. L. 1. 43. L. tr. $7\frac{1}{18}$.

Length of specimen 5 inches.

Length of head $\frac{1}{3}$, of base of dorsal spines nearly $\frac{1}{3}$, of base of dorsal rays $\frac{1}{6}$, of pectoral $\frac{1}{4}$, of base of anal $\frac{1}{10}$, of caudal $\frac{1}{5}$ of the total length. Height of head $\frac{1}{4}$, of body $\frac{1}{3}$, of dorsal spines $\frac{1}{7}$, of dorsal rays $\frac{1}{7}$, of ventral $\frac{1}{5}$, of anal spines $\frac{1}{6}$, of anal rays $\frac{1}{5}$ of the total length.

Eyes. Orbits raised, with depressions anterior and posterior to them, having also a deep concave interorbital groove, with an elevated line on either side which does not become spiny. Diameter of eye $\frac{1}{4}$ of length of head, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a diameter from eye to eye, $1\frac{3}{4}$ diameter from end of snout.

Dorsal profile more convex than the abdominal. Head compressed.

Snout rather elevated, a transverse depression between it and the orbits. Cleft of mouth oblique; posterior extremity of the maxilla extending to beneath the centre of the orbit; lower jaw the longest. Posterior nostril circular, situated in the transverse groove behind the snout, and having a short sharp spine a short distance anterior to it; the anterior nostril tubular, just anterior and external to this spine, and having a broad fleshy tentacle above it, which is

fringed externally. A short distance external to the posterior nostril is a sharp spine, leading backwards from which to above the angle of the præoperculum is a spiny ridge containing five more directed backwards. Along the angle and lower border of præoperculum are three denticulations—the superior a strong spine, the others blunted; there are also three fleshy tentacles along its border, and one on the side of the præoperculum. Interoperculum with a blunt spine and tentacle. Operculum with a bony ridge along its centre, ending in two spines. A ridge containing three spines passes from the posterior inferior margin of the orbit to the upper margin of the opercle and commencement of the lateral line, and has two minute spines below it. Another spiny ridge extends from the posterior superior margin of the orbit backwards, and one spine between it and the ridge below it. Orbit with a strong spine at its anterior superior margin, one at its posterior superior margin, and one at its superior margin, which has attached to it a long wide tentacle on a narrow base. Several fleshy tentacles exist along the edge of the snout, a large one above the angle of the mouth, and two on the extremity of the upper jaw; there are also three rather large ones on the lower jaw.

Teeth villiform, in numerous rows in both jaws, also in a V-shaped patch on the vomer, but none on the palate.

Fins. Dorsal spines moderately strong, the third the longest; interspinous membrane rather deeply cleft, and extended beyond each spine. Pectoral broad at its base, its twelve lower rays unbranched, and minute fleshy appendages attached to them. Ventral spine strong. Anal—first spine short, second and third of equal length, but the second twice as strong as any in the fish. Caudal cut square at its extremity.

Scales in rows proceeding backwards and upwards. Some on the upper part of the operculum; head otherwise scaleless.

Lateral line in twenty-three or twenty-four tubes.

Colours. Of a general rose-colour, marbled with greyish; the spines on the head are darker than the surrounding parts. One or two irregular grey bands with dark edges exist on the tail. The dorsal and anal are also banded; and the pectoral has numerous bands on it.

This species differs from the *S. venosa*, C. & V., which has no orbital tentacle, and of which the third anal spine is the longest and strongest, and the caudal fin is rounded, &c.

CARANX NIGRESCENS, sp. nov.

B. vii. D. $7\frac{1}{19}$. P. 19. V. $1\frac{1}{5}$. A. $2\frac{1}{17}$. C. 19. L. 1. 25.

Length of specimen 24 inches.

Length of head nearly $\frac{1}{5}$, of pectoral $\frac{2}{7}$, of base of first dorsal $\frac{1}{11}$, of base of second dorsal $\frac{1}{3}$, of base of anal $\frac{2}{7}$, of caudal $\frac{2}{9}$ of the total length. Height of head $\frac{2}{9}$, of body $\frac{2}{7}$, of first dorsal $\frac{1}{12}$, of second dorsal $\frac{1}{8}$, of ventral $\frac{1}{12}$, of anal $\frac{1}{6}$ of the total length.

Eyes with very narrow adipose lids; diameter $\frac{1}{3}$ of length of head,

$1\frac{1}{2}$ diameter from end of snout, $1\frac{1}{4}$ diameter apart, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a diameter from the dorsal profile.

Body compressed. Dorsal and abdominal profiles equally convex.

Head compressed, and having an elevated central ridge. Præorbital wide, equal in extent to $1\frac{1}{2}$ diameter of the orbit. Præopercle—its posterior limb rather oblique; its lower margin lineated towards the edge, which is crenulated. Sub- and interopercles also crenulated.

Teeth in numerous villiform rows, of equal size in both jaws, with a slight interval at symphysis. A triangular patch of villiform teeth on the vomer; and a long narrow band of the same character on the palate.

Fins. Pectoral rather in advance of the origin of the dorsal and ventral; anal arises under about the sixth ray of the second dorsal. First dorsal nearly triangular; second dorsal highest anteriorly, its upper margin rather concave in its first portion, subsequently parallel with the back. Pectoral falciform, reaching to opposite the tenth dorsal ray. Dorsal spines weak, the first very short, the third and fourth the longest. First ray of second dorsal the longest in the fin; the last does not quite reach the base of the caudal. Anal spines weak, the second the longest.

Scales cover the body, under the eyes, and the upper portion of the opercles; there are none on the chest. There is a moderately high sheath to the dorsal and anal fins.

Lateral line with a very moderate curve to opposite the thirteenth dorsal ray, whence it becomes straight. The keel is slightly developed—in fact, being only very distinct on the last eight scales. A lateral ridge on either side of the keel on the root of the caudal.

Cæcal appendages very numerous.

Colours. Of a dusky greyish, with innumerable fine black points, and generally glossed with purple. A well-marked black spot upon the operculum. Fins nearly black, especially the dorsal.

This description is that of a male specimen.

Of the genus *Panchax*, Cuv. & Val., I have obtained two species at Madras, and one from Malabar. Before describing these, I may remark that I have not as yet met with the *Panchax* (*Esox*) *panchax*, Buch. Ham.

The *Panchax lineatum*, C. & V., is exceedingly common in Malabar; but I have not taken it as yet on the Madras side of the Western Ghawts.

The *Panchax* (*Aplocheilus*) *rubrostigma*, Jerdon, and another species which I am unable to refer to any existing description, and have therefore considered new, are both exceedingly common in all tanks, streams, and pieces of fresh water around Madras.

These two species are very dissimilar in their appearance; and I have kept a number in an aquarium, where they grow rapidly and become very tame. They are carried in water with great difficulty, and rapidly die when out of their native element. They swim very close to the surface of the water, and appear to require a large amount of oxygen.

PANCHAX ARGENTEUS, sp. nov.

B. iv. D. 6. P. 15. V. 6. A. 20. C. 13. L. l. 27. L. tr. 11.

Length of specimens from $\frac{1}{5}$ to $1\frac{2}{10}$ inch.

Length of head nearly $\frac{1}{4}$, of pectoral $\frac{1}{4}$, of base of dorsal $\frac{1}{10}$, of base of anal $\frac{2}{7}$, of caudal $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total length. Height of head $\frac{1}{6}$, of body $\frac{1}{4}$, of dorsal fin $\frac{1}{5}$, of ventral $\frac{1}{8}$, of anal $\frac{1}{6}$ of the total length.

Eyes. Diameter $\frac{2}{5}$ of length of head, $\frac{2}{3}$ of a diameter from end of snout, nearly 1 diameter apart.

Teeth in a narrow villiform row, directed at first almost horizontally, and bent near their extremities.

Fins. Dorsal is situated over the last few rays of the anal, which last commences midway between end of snout and termination of the caudal fin, which is cut square. Ventrals, if laid forwards, just reach to the opercles; if in their natural position, they extend beyond the vent to the first anal ray.

Scales on the top of the head with smooth edges and not festooned; those on chest much smaller than those on the body.

Body very compressed; back wide and flat.

Colours. Of a dullish green along the back, becoming dirty white along the abdomen. The back and also between the rays of the anal and caudal fins finely dotted with black points; otherwise the fins are diaphanous. Eyes blue.

This species, which appears never to grow to a large size, seems allied to the *Panchax cyanophthalmus*, Blyth, which, however, is said to have 22–23 anal rays. It differs from the *Panchax (Pæcilia) latipes*, Schleg., in the length of the head, and in the number of the dorsal and anal rays, in the number of scales, and in the position of the ventral fin. It may be the *Panchax m'clellandi*, Bleeker; but as that species is only known from a drawing, it is impossible to decide the question.

PANCHAX RUBROSTIGMA, Jerdon.

B. iv. D. 8. P. 15. V. 6. A. 14–15. C. 15. L. l. 27. L. tr. 7.

Length of specimens from $1\frac{2}{10}$ to $1\frac{6}{10}$ inch.

Length of head $\frac{2}{9}$, of pectoral $\frac{1}{7}$, of base of dorsal $\frac{1}{14}$, of base of anal $\frac{1}{7}$, of caudal $\frac{1}{11}$ of the total length. Height of head $\frac{1}{7}$, of body $\frac{1}{5}$, of dorsal $\frac{1}{7}$, of ventral $\frac{1}{7}$, of anal $\frac{1}{7}$ of the total length.

Eyes oval, $\frac{2}{5}$ of length of head, $\frac{2}{3}$ of a diameter from end of snout, $1\frac{1}{4}$ diameter apart.

Body elongated; back moderately flat from the snout to the base of the dorsal fin; sides compressed.

Length of intermaxillaries in central line equal to about half the diameter of the eye. The posterior extremity of the maxilla extending to beneath the centre of the orbit. Angle of præoperculum rounded, but not produced.

Teeth in both jaws villiform, recurved, and in a narrow band.

Fins. Anal commences midway between snout and termination of caudal fin. The dorsal begins over the last four anal rays. Caudal wedge-shaped, its central rays the longest.

Scales cycloid ; two rows between eye and angle of præoperculum ; those on the summit of the head with their posterior border festooned.

Colours. Of a dull green on the back and sides, and dirty white along the abdomen. Numerous small and brilliant blue spots along the sides, alternating with rusty-red ones when the fish is alive and in good health, but they fade after death. A light spot on the summit of the head, which is sometimes absent. Dorsal fin white, with a large black spot along its base. Anal orange. Eye silvery.

5. Preliminary Description of a New Species of Finner Whale
(*Balenoptera bonaërensis*). By DR. H. BURMEISTER,
F.M.Z.S., Director of the Public Museum, Buenos Ayres.

The animal which I now bring before the notice of the scientific public was found dead, floating on the river Plata, near Belgrano, about ten miles from Buenos Ayres, by a fisherman, who brought the body on shore on the 5th of February of this year, and informed me on the next day of his discovery. I was then confined by illness to my room, and was unable to go to see the body until fourteen days later. Putrefaction had already destroyed the Whale's external appearance ; but as I found the body lying on the ground near the shore I was able to take a sufficiently accurate measure of it by steps. It was then 16 paces long, of which nearly 4 belonged to the head, and 12 to the trunk with the tail. Calculating my steps in moderate walking as equal to 2 feet, I made the whole body 32 feet long ; and now measuring the skull alone I find it is 7 feet long, leaving 25 feet for the trunk and tail. This 25 feet is divided in the skeleton in such a manner that 1 foot is occupied by the seven vertebræ of the neck, $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet by the eleven dorsal vertebræ, $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet by the twelve lumbar, and 10 feet by the nineteen of the tail, the 4 additional feet being for the external parts of the animal—the skin, the cellular covering under it, and the intervertebral cartilages.

As the surface was already destroyed by putrefaction, I could not see distinctly the eyes, the ear-openings, or the nostrils. I only observed that the under jaw was about 4 inches longer than the tip of the skull and surrounded the upper jaw in its whole circumference.

Ten paces from the tip of the nose was a triangular falcate dorsal fin about 1 foot high and $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot long ; and on the tip of the tail a large caudal fin with the usual two lobes, about $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet distant from each other at the hinder ends, and each $5\frac{1}{3}$ feet long, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot broad at the beginning.

The pectoral fins I could not examine very exactly—the one being already destroyed, and the other covered by the body ; but they appeared to have the usual triangular form, and a length of from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 feet. The rest of the skin was of a dark black-grey colour, like the old clay-slate, but lighter and nearly white-grey on the under-